

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

RILEY H. ALLEN

EDITOR

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War-Hemmed Switzerland

In the midst of it all sits brave little Switzerland, minding her own business, strong politically, but numerically small. It is a nation fully prepared for any emergency, but with never a thought of aggression, and at peace with the world, even the warring world that hems her in on every side.

Switzerland has but a handful of men for an army, as armies of the present day are enumerated. Her defending force numbers but 300,000 men, yet it is big enough to command the respect and consideration of the mighty nations now at war all about her, and her international standing has been maintained through it all.

Every Swiss male arriving at the age of 20 years automatically becomes a soldier of the republic. He is drilled and thoroughly schooled in the deepest sense and meaning of a soldier's work, and though he may return to his daily work or profession he remains a thorough soldier, at the beck and call of his government until he is 50 years of age. He is constantly ready, and can report, fully armed, at a moment's notice.

In size, Switzerland is but a few square miles larger than the state of Maryland, but her force for peace is 300,000, and every man a soldier. Yet, we are told by Professor Charles Borgeaud of the University of Geneva, that Switzerland's preparedness does not foster a spirit of militarism, but, on the contrary, is an inspiration to walk in the paths of peace.

SUGAR OUTLOOK FOR 1918.

(From Facts About Sugar)

While the season of 1917-18 is yet too young to make possibly any exact computation of the probable amount of sugar that will be available for the American market during the coming year, sufficient is known of conditions in the various producing sections to make it evident that there will be no surplus of sugar above actual necessary requirements.

The grinding of cane in Louisiana has progressed sufficiently to make it clear that the crop will be far below earlier estimates and below that of last season. The harvest of sugar beets has been delayed by unfavorable weather. An unusually large proportion of the beets are still in the ground and the scarcity of labor gives rise to the fear that winter weather may come on before they can be gathered.

In Hawaii the prolonged drought has led to a sharp revision downward of the estimated crop yield. Only in Porto Rico, of the various domestic producing areas, does the present outlook promise an output equal to that of last year. A production of 21,000,000 ordinary tons, exclusive of the Philippines, now seems about the best that can be hoped for from American sugar fields.

In Cuba likewise present indications point to a yield no greater than that of the present season, although estimates of 3,500,000 tons or more have been made on the basis of acreage and early conditions. Unless actual results obtained in the course of the harvest exceed present promise the combined total of American and Cuban production is hardly likely to exceed 5,450,000 tons.

Of this amount at least 1,200,000 tons will be required to meet the most urgent requirements of Great Britain, France, and others of our allies, even assuming that the Mauritius crop and a considerable proportion of the Javan production can be utilized by them. This would leave approximately four and a quarter million tons for the use of the American people. This would permit an average allowance of a little less than seventy-eight pounds to each person in the country, or about a pound and a half per capita less than actual consumption in 1916.

NO DISHONOR IN DEPOSITION.

(From the Stockton, Cal., Record)

Liliuokalani will be remembered just as long as though she had served out her term as the queen. Possibly she will be remembered longer and more gratefully by her former native subjects for the gentle sentiment of pity now comes to reinforce any conviction of "divine right" that may linger in the islands. This is not a hint to King Albert of Belgium, or King George of England, but it is an acknowledgment from democracy that on the death of ex-royalty there are still royal honors in a free land. Napoleon left a heritage of good for the world, but the world would be more cheerful about it if it had not been marred by his attempt to leave unfit Napoleons to occupy thrones.

By Felix Adler, in the Standard.

Good will in the strict sense is the engine upon which we must rely to create peace. Every one of us, instead of writing letters to the newspaper as to what the kaiser or the czar or some one else should do, may begin to initiate the reign of peace by creating in himself good will, especially toward the people against whom he feels objection. Almost every one objects to one or more other races, and many people object to all races other than their own. There are also individuals that repel us, there are those whose mere faces create in us dislike. We can begin by overcoming our personal repulsions, making it our ethical purpose, if we feel strongly repelled, to try and take a friendly view of a man, to try and see the fair side of his nature. If there is any one whom you particularly dislike, think kindly of him at this moment.

That Liberty Loan swindler who was given a quick trial and a three-year sentence has learned that it's poor business trying to gold-brick Uncle Sam.

George Ade's Little Hint

This appears to be that time often referred to as the "psychological moment" to report what George Ade wrote in the Official Bulletin, Uncle Sam's daily paper, early this month.

Ade is not only a great humorist, but a level-headed American. He has written, said and done many things which ring finely of patriotism, but he has not excelled this column in the Official Bulletin. Says the gentleman from Indiana:

All the walls and misgivings and fish stories are put into circulation by a few peacetime outsiders who were just built to be obstructionists and somehow can't help it.

They are a holdover of the Vallandigham clan that reviled Lincoln and gave an underhand copperhead support to the cause of slavery, even after it was doomed.

They are the kind of people who oppose public improvements, will not buy tickets for the Chautauqua, criticize the minister if he smiles in public, and attach the presumption of guilt to any woman attacked by scandal.

They are the small bores, the two-by-fours, the gnats, the sand flies, the ticks put on earth to teach good people the quality of patience.

The time has come to ignore them.

If we cannot lock them up for safekeeping, at least we can shut them out from our daily program and go ahead with the important work laid out for us.

This is no time to waste precious hours and vocal energy in trying to prove that two and two make four, and water is wet, and the sun sets in the west, and the mad dog of Prussianism must be muzzled.

Do not try to convince the miniature La Follettes, because they do not wish to be convinced. They derive a bilious comfort from being different. They have learned that no cloud has a silver lining; it is festooned on the interior with crepe.

If all the optimists along your street should arise some morning into a world bedecked with dew, sparks and exclaim in unison, "What a beautiful, sunny day!" then some two-legged crab would emerge from behind a lilac bush and say, "Yes; but I think it'll rain before night."

If you find a banana skin on the threshold of patriotic opportunity, kick it aside and do not permit yourself to become fussed.

The stalwart men and women of middle age are to keep the home fires burning during the supreme ordeal now at hand.

They are to raise the crops, speed the factories, collect the taxes, organize the home guards, conserve the wheat and meat and sugar, back up the Red Cross, peddle the Liberty Bonds, write the letters, pack the comfort kits, and stand by for orders at all times.

If a busy worker feels some one tugging at his coat tail, the thing to do is to kick straight back and kick hard, but do not waste time in looking around.

Ade puts the situation in homely words that any man with common sense can understand.

Don't leave it all for the government to do. The government has its limitations. It is not a conjurer. Too many people are under the impression that the government can do anything. It cannot. It can't compel the farmer to raise a single sack of potatoes more than he intended to, or a single grain of barley or wheat. But you—individually—you can do what the great government can't do. You can increase the food supply a hundred-fold if you so wish. The government can very wisely advise as to the uses of the products of the farmer and the manufacturer and the producer, which, added to your endeavors, aid materially in winning the war.

When it comes to a show-down of resources, especially at war time, United States is up in front. We occupy 6 per cent of the surface of the earth; have over 5 per cent of its people, over 33 per cent of its wealth. We also produce 76 per cent of the world's corn, 70 per cent of its cotton, 72 per cent of its oil, 49 per cent of its copper, 43 per cent of its pig iron, 37 per cent of its coal, 25 per cent of its tobacco, 26 per cent of its silver, 24 per cent of its wheat and over 21 per cent of its gold, all of which goes to show that the Allies can dine at our table for some time to come.

The public-spirited sportsmen who are doing their best to keep racing alive in Hawaii deserve support and the New Year's Day events should be attended with this in mind. It is impossible here to secure races with the number of entries and caliber of horseflesh found around the big Eastern tracks or the Western tracks under the old regime, but if the various committees do their best in seeing that the public is given the contests it expects to see, very good programs can be furnished.

The great mass of railroad men, like the great mass of any American group, may be counted upon as loyal. They will rally to the new scheme of government-controlled roads and give good service. Now that the United States has taken over the railroads as a war measure, they are all enrolled among Uncle Sam's fighters, even though not in khaki or blue.

A detailed investigation of milk-production and distribution costs in Honolulu would take time and cost money, but the results would be worth while. If such an investigation established the present cost of milk to the consumer as reasonable, the public would pay without grumbling.

Someone has referred to the I. W. W. as "Boisheviks without the whiskers." The remaining characteristics seem to fit without need for alterations.

Instead of turning their swords into ploughshares, the Russians are turning their helmets into megaphones.

Secretary Lansing's periodical revelations continue to knock the prop out of German propaganda.

While the "reds" and "whites" are fighting each other, it looks blue for Russia.

Kaiser Wilhelm's Christmas peace offering rings as true as a plugged nickel.

It has been almost a week since the ex-czar made his latest escape.

Honolulu, Familiar and Unknown

NO. 1—THROUGH THE TENEMENTS

(By THE EDITOR)

How many of Honolulu's well-to-do people ever visit the highways and byways of that district of tenements and small shops west of Nuuanu river?

How many have visited this district within the past month?

Probably not one in ten has visited these tenements probably not one in 20 within the past month. Most of us know, in a vague way, that there are "congested conditions" here, and that pretty often the police reports printed in the daily papers tell of murders, suicides and other unpleasant incidents occurring in these crowded sections.

But most of well-to-do Honolulu rolls swiftly and easily along King street, or up Nuuanu or up Liliha—very seldom along Vineyard street, or the other cross streets—and sees little of the conditions in these back alleys and narrow streets swarming with a mixed population of all ages and both sexes.

A few years ago Dr. J. S. B. Pratt, president of the board of health, escorted me one day through "Chinatown" and showed the beginning of the important sanitary work inaugurated. I believe, under Ernest A. Mott-Smith as president of the board and carried along efficiently when Dr. Pratt succeeded him. One chief feature of that work was the enforcing of regulations for cement floors and drains in certain tenement districts.

From time to time since, every few weeks, I have gone through the tenement districts, sometimes with a sanitary inspector, more often by myself. Up until a few weeks ago one could say with perfect truth that there was generally a steady, if slow, improvement in tenement conditions. While the pressure of population was growing, the sanitary conditions were being bettered.

This same gratifying statement cannot now be made. The reason for that is the reason for this article, and the reason that is causing special concern just now to social workers in touch with conditions night and day in Honolulu's poorer section.

Conditions Dangerous.

A few days ago W. E. Pietsch came to me and said that something ought to be done about the hundreds of plantation workers and their families invading the city. He said the conditions were bad and might soon be appalling. When I asked him the cause, he invited me to a trip through the tenement districts and, with a member of the territorial grand jury, we went out the following afternoon.

We armed ourselves with a load of magazines, mostly picture magazines, and a large sack of candy procured at wholesale rates from a friendly Chinese merchant, and spent some hours in a tour of perhaps 20 tenements, including some of the largest in Honolulu.

The following notes were made on the spot, as we went from place to place. It will be noticed that repeated mention is made of the crowds of single men hanging around these districts in the early afternoon, evidence of a widespread condition of unemployment which is unnecessary, as there is work for men in several occupations.

"Ah Leong block, King street opposite O. R. & L. station, courtyard crowded with men, 15 to 20 seen during few minutes' stay; five obviously intoxicated. Half a dozen Filipinos hanging around. Several large families in dirty rooms, including two intoxicated women. Conditions around courtyard, however, not so bad as on other side of building. Here were found three families from plantations, one of seven, one of five and one of six children. Each family had a room. Each family was waiting to take a steamer to coast but unable to get passage. This whole side of building swarmed with single men, though it was the middle of the afternoon. All were evidently idlers. Half dressed women, apparently Filipino, Porto Rican, Hawaiian and negro, were loitering around.

"Toilets in bad condition. All ages and sexes used toilets without segregation.

"The three plantation families were Spanish, two from Koloa, Kauai, one from Ewa, Oahu.

"Tenement up alley off King street opposite Beretania and King junction: This and an adjoining tenement were fairly clean and much better kept than most seen during the day, but swarmed with Filipino men. All said they had come to town from plantations and didn't know what they were going to do next. A number of young girls from 10 to 16 years old strolling in and out of men's rooms.

"No. 1127 Liliha street: Cruz family (Spanish), six in one room. Father shoemaker. This family had more means of livelihood than most seen during the inspection, but neighborhood unquestionably bad. Typical instance of how families must live in close proximity to vicious conditions.

Where Children Are Housed.

"Liliha and Vineyard streets: In

this building which has been under the suspicion of social workers and others for alleged sheltering of vice, are now at least four large families fresh from the plantations. The four families found on this trip included 17 children, of whom there appeared to be five girls between 10 and 17. They are living among obviously vicious people. The house is visited regularly by men, the night visitations being suggestive that it is used for immoral purposes.

"All of the plantation families were Spanish and all hoped to get to the coast, but were without passage tickets.

"Buckle Lane. About a dozen families have recently come from the plantations to various cottages and tenements in this immediate vicinity. Mostly Spanish. Some Portuguese and Porto Ricans. Many single Filipinos. Here were found 19 people in three small rooms. The cottages are clean and fairly comfortable but the children are very close to vicious neighborhood influences and this section is haunted by men of evil designs.

"Camp No. 2, Vineyard street: This well-known place contains some of the worst instances of overcrowding as well as some of the most dangerous vice. The buildings are in very bad condition, veritable firetraps, and it appears that the sanitary code regulation against open fires on the lanais is violated with impunity, as many instances were found here and elsewhere.

"In this building the Filipinos have hived in the loosest fashion. One room houses five Filipino men and two women; another had seven Filipino men and one woman, though they declared the woman did not live there regularly.

"Many children live in this block; many others nearby. The neighborhood shows the congestion of population, with the usual situation of families from the plantations, with their children exposed to evil associations.

"Turning to the left, up Nuuanu stream, were found several tenements and cottages where the same conditions of overcrowding exists, though no new families have moved in, so far as could be learned. In one of these tenements were half a dozen Filipino women who, we were informed, are prostitutes.

"All of these places were visited in the day time, when a large part of the tenants are absent. At night the overcrowding and the carousings are even more apparent."

Sudden Influx from Plantations.

The acute situation now existing is caused by the sudden influx of plantation families and their concentration in tenements already crowded. They have been paid their bonus money and have wild dreams of sudden wealth to be acquired elsewhere. Ultimately most of these will go back to the plantations. It is what will happen to their children, especially to the young girls, which is of special concern to Honolulu.

Crowded into these filthy tenements, forced by circumstances to live next door to all manner of vice, night and day seeing drunkenness and things worse than drunkenness, the young girls and boys are exposed to evil which threatens to engulf them, particularly when the father's money gives out and the families are in want.

Various agencies are talking of remedial steps. The Ad club has committees at work and has presented certain suggestions to the supervisors. At best these suggestions will improve but not eliminate conditions. So long as these ramshackle old tenements are allowed to exist there will be congestion of population in them.

It would be a godsend to Honolulu if, without loss of life, another big fire should destroy the worst of these great buildings. That is, it would be a godsend if our authorities would thereafter prevent the erection of more tenements to take the place of those burned down.

LETTERS

GERMANS IN THE U. S.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.
Sir: Enclosed please find a letter which recently appeared in the San Francisco Examiner and which, I believe, hits the nail on the head concerning those of German blood among us who fail to take a decided stand for the United States.

The letter is as follows:

To the Editor of the Examiner.
Sir: While a man born in Germany and naturalized in this country is unquestionably entitled to fair dealing, he must not expect that, in giving him what he calls a "fair deal," Americans jeopardize any of their rights, which are now so gravely imperiled by the unwonted aggressions of the Central Powers. "E. F." may be a faithful and patriotic American citizen, but at this very minute there are thousands of

German-born citizens in this country who are absolutely false to its national interests.

Nor does "E. F." better his cause by alleging that many South Germans are not in sympathy with Prussia. Prussia is predominant in the German empire, the other states are practically her serfs, her vassals, and whether or not they adore or sympathize with Prussian militarism, they obey and carry out Prussian orders and practices, and the war is run on a strictly Prussian basis.

Although we all know many Rhinelanders and South Germans who in time of peace are admirable individuals, nevertheless, the fact remains that they have become infected with the diabolical virus of Prussianism, and that they are just as radical and venomous at the present moment as any Junker who ever came from east of the Oder.

With such knowledge before us, is it any wonder that a man born in Germany and naturalized in this country should become a subject of suspicion unless he takes his stand for America in a clear and unequivocal manner? And is it any wonder that, if he is unwilling to take such a stand, he should remain an object of suspicion?

ion? If "E. F." will do as many of our German-born citizens have done and are doing: If he will take a bold and decided stand for America; if he will openly support and uphold this country in its hour of peril, he will find himself no longer an object of suspicion; and he will have no difficulty in getting employment in any situation which he has the necessary ability to fill. But if he does not so declare himself he must remember that "He who is not for me is against me," and he has only himself to blame if he suffers accordingly.

X. X.

PERSONALITIES

MRS. W. T. LIVINGSTONE, who underwent a serious operation at the Queen's Hospital last Wednesday, is getting along nicely and a speedy recovery is anticipated.

Arthur E. Restarick, master, has recommended the approval of the accounts of the trusteeship of H. E. Cooper et al., acting for the owners of the yacht Hawaii, regarding the recent sale of the vessel. The trust has received \$2825 and disbursed \$2824.77 leaving a balance of 73 cents.



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